

USDA/Rural Development

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News Release

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES \$500,000 IN RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS GRANT

Temple, Texas, September 30, 2003 – Bryan Daniel, State Director, USDA Rural Development today announced that High Plains Wind Power, LP has received a \$500,000 grant thru the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grant.

“These programs support President Bush’s goal for increasing renewable energy supplies,” said Daniel. “Developing alternative energy sources is an important part of the Administration’s overall energy policy that will in turn reduce pollution and increase energy security.”

High Plains Wind Power, LP will use the funds for the purchase and installation of equipment, construction of improvements, permit fees, professional service fees, and feasibility studies and business plans. The primary goal of the project is the development of a renewable energy facility comprising six 1.5 mega watt wind generator turbines, which are projected to produce over 35 million megawatt hours per year of clean, inexpensive renewable energy, which will be sold.

In Fiscal Year 2003, 24 states received funding totaling a little over \$21 million from the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements program. This program will assist farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses develop renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements to their operations.

“American agriculture is going through a time of enormous transformation,” said Daniel. “We need to be bold in recognizing and capitalizing on new opportunities. Energy is unquestionably one of those areas that present tremendous opportunities for economic gains and ultimately an improved quality of life for rural Texans.”

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact USDA Rural Development at: (254) 742-9710.

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The USDA Rural Development mission area was created in 1994 and includes the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, the Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Utilities Service. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation’s 53 million rural people.